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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
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Federal Agencies



April 5, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit 1634**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/741,664; Filed: December 21, 2000  
For: **Stable Compositions for Nucleic Acid Amplification and Sequencing**  
Inventors: Rashtchian *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.3910003/BJD/SAC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(1);
3. Credit Card Payment Form (Form PTO-2038);
4. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111; and
5. A return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
April 5, 2004  
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono", written over a horizontal line.

Brian J. Del Buono  
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BJD/SAC/tts  
Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
RASHTCHIAN *et al.*  
Appl. No. 09/741,664  
Filed: December 21, 2000  
For: **Stable Compositions for Nucleic  
Acid Amplification and  
Sequencing**

Confirmation No.: 7736  
Art Unit: 1634  
Examiner: Souaya, Jehanne E.  
Atty. Docket: 0942.3910003/BJD/SAC

Amendment And Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **November 5, 2003**, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
  - in ascending order;
  - with status identifiers; and
  - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No.